

To: Heather Norton

From: Ann Kelly

Subject: SB 627 workgroup

Date: 10/14/14

Representing individuals from Northern Virginia who are waiting for an ID Waiver slot, I would love to have centers or homes that are close-to-home and loved ones. But in the real world that isn't always possible. As I stated in the workgroup meetings, training centers are important not only to people on Waiver waiting lists, they're important for training people who need or want to work with special citizens. It would be my recommendation that at least three training centers stay open in Virginia. If affordable, the four remaining ones. That would be a doable geographic map, not only for colleges that could help train people. (As I stated in the meeting, medical students could have residencies and internships close to their colleges.) But these locations would lessen the miles for family members who would receive training from center staff. This helps training center residents return home or at least be close to their community.

Another reason for training centers to remain open is the medical staff who currently work in them. They are important to many of the residents who live at the centers. Their needs include feeding tubes, and many have critical care needs to maintain their life expectancy.

The group homes I've researched don't take some of the people who are admitted to training centers. They aren't equipped to take them.

This is a valuable resource for citizens who can't help themselves. It's too valuable to end.